

## DO PEOPLE PAY TO VISIT GRACELAND?

everyone who makes the mistake  
of allowing me to guide them on  
a tour of southern california  
gets taken to the grave of marilyn monroe.

it's not a grave exactly --  
just a drawer in a wall in the westwood cemetery,  
which is a green patch behind the avco cinemas  
that you enter through a parking lot.

no one that i have taken  
to marilyn monroe's grave  
has ever expressed a desire to see it in advance,  
nor has anyone, afterwards, ever thanked me.

that proves they needed it.

## SIESTA TIME

the guatemalan takeover  
was about as unromantic, dull, and bloodless  
as a takeover can be.  
a very bad government was replaced  
by a government that is either  
slightly better or a little bit worse.  
the continuity of atrocities  
is not apt to be interrupted.

but what interested me  
was the anchor man's announcement that  
"only a few died in the coup."

i wonder who that few were  
and why they bothered to die.

did they believe fanatically  
in their theocratic dictator

or were they, like stoppard's rosenkrantz and  
guilderstern,  
basically a-political sorts  
who just happened to be guarding the wrong palace  
at the wrong phase of the moon?